

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to delete reference to provisional U.S. Application No. 60/115,786 and to claim priority to related applications Serial No. 09/462,656 (the '656 Application) and Serial No. 08/933,566, now U.S. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Walid Aboul-Hosn is an inventor common to the instant application, the '656 Application, and the '260 Patent. A Petition for an Unintentionally Delayed Benefit Claim pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.78 has been filed, a copy of which is submitted herewith (Attachment A).

Claims 1-9 remain pending in the application.

The claims are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Aboul-Hosn U.S. 6,083,260 (the '260 Patent). Applicant's claim of priority to the '260 Patent removes the '260 Patent as prior art as to the instant application. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks and allowance of claims 1-9 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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A-Mel/16828/041107 AMENDMENT B

Enclosures: RCE Transmittal Letter
Attachment A
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, with sufficient postage, on the date indicated below in an envelope addressed as follows: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By:

Linda S. Wenzel

Dated:

9 November 2004

Linda S. Wenzel